

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) Means for holding two pieces in position that are to be moved towards each other along at least two extreme coplanar docking directions ($D1$, $D2$) that form a docking angle (β) between ~~them~~ said directions, the position-holding means comprising firstly at least a male and a female V (19, 20) each provided with means for fixing to a respective one of the pieces so that each said V is centered substantially on a direction parallel to the bisector of the docking angle, the female V possessing an inlet portion (20.1) having an aperture angle ($\alpha1$, α) not less than the docking angle, and secondly means (23, 24) for pressing the male V against the female V along said bisector.

2. (previously presented) Position-holding means according to claim 1, wherein the Vs (19, 20) have aperture angles (α) that are substantially equal and greater than the docking angle (β).

3. (previously presented) Position-holding means according to claim 2, wherein for a docking angle (β) of about 90° , the aperture angles (α) of the Vs (19, 20) are equal to about 120° .

4. (previously presented) Position-holding means according to claim 1, wherein the female V (20) possesses an end portion (20.2) having an aperture angle (α_2) substantially equal to the aperture angle of the male V (19) which is not less than the docking angle (β), and wherein the aperture angle (α_1) of the inlet portion (20.1) of the female V is greater than the aperture angle (α_2) of the end portion (20.2) thereof.

5. (previously presented) Position-holding means according to claim 4, wherein, for a docking angle (β) substantially equal to 90° , the aperture angle (α_2) of the male V and of the end portion (20.2) of the female V (20) is substantially equal to 90° , and the aperture angle (α_1) of the inlet portion (20.1) of the female V (20) is substantially equal to 120° .

6. (previously presented) Position-holding means according to claim 1, wherein the means for pressing the Vs together comprise a peg (23) projecting from the male V (19) symmetrically relative thereto so as to be inserted into an elongate slot (22) formed in the female V (20) and having a major axis contained in the plane of the docking direction, at least one jaw (24) being movably mounted on the peg (23) to be actuated between an active position in which it forms an abutment for a rear face (26) of the female V facing away from the male V, and an inactive position in which it is retracted and allows the peg to pass freely through the slot of the female V.

7. (cancelled)

8. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 11, wherein for a docking angle (β) of about 90° , the aperture angles (α) of the Vs (19, 20) are equal to about 120° , and wherein the bisector (b) of the aperture angles (α) of the Vs (19, 20) forms an angle of about 45° with the longitudinal axis of the bodywork.

9. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the Vs secured to the transverse tool (11) are male Vs (19) and the Vs secured to the side tools (14) are female Vs (20).

10. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 11, wherein, for a docking angle (β) substantially equal to 90° , the aperture angle (α_2) of the male V and of the end portion (20.2) of the female V (20) is substantially equal to 90° , and the aperture angle (α_1) of the inlet portion (20.1) of the female V (20) is substantially equal to 120° , and wherein the bisector (b) of the aperture angles (α) of the Vs (19, 20) forms an angle of about 45° with the longitudinal axis of the bodywork.

11. (currently amended) Apparatus for assembling bodywork, the apparatus comprising two side tools (14) supporting body sides (2) and a tool (11) extending transversely relative to the two side tools, comprising means (18) for holding the side tools and the transverse tool in position that are to be moved towards each other along at least two extreme coplanar docking

directions (D1, D2) that form a docking angle (β) between ~~them~~ said directions, the position-holding means comprising firstly male and female Vs (19, 20) each provided with means for fixing to a respective one of the tools so that each said V is centered substantially on a direction parallel to the bisector of the docking angle, the female V possessing an inlet portion (20.1) having an aperture angle (α_1 , α) not less than the docking angle, and secondly means (23, 24) for pressing the male V against the female V along said bisector, the transverse tool having at least two Vs (19) disposed symmetrically about a longitudinal axis of the bodywork and designed to cooperate with corresponding Vs (20) fixed to the side tools.

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2. (previously presented) Position-holding means according to claim 1, wherein the Vs (19, 20) have aperture angles (α) that are substantially equal and greater than the docking angle (β).

3. (previously presented) Position-holding means according to claim 2, wherein for a docking angle (β) of about 90° , the aperture angles (α) of the Vs (19, 20) are equal to about 120° .